

Amendments to the Specification

Please substitute the following amended text for the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 21 of the specification as follows:

The barrel is flexible and is spread outwardly a slight amount to the position of FIG. 6 just prior to retraction. Here the mating surfaces 126, 128 are separated an amount which reduces the clamping force on the needle holder 94. The spreading shown in FIG. 6 is greatly exaggerated for illustration. It is estimated that an expansion of only about four thousandths of an inch is sufficient to release needle holder 94 from nose 88. By slight further depression of the plunger from the position of FIG. 6 to the retracted position of FIG. 7, retraction occurs when the retraction force applied by spring 96 exceeds the remaining holding force on needle holder 94. Needle holder 94 then moves through opening 112 into cavity 108 along with a portion of spring 96. The uncompressed length of spring 96 is designed to provide sufficient backward movement to withdraw an injection needle 28 fixed in the front portion of needle holder 94 and carry dislodged stopper 114 with it. At the same time, cap [[42]] 48 enters opening 138 at the rear of a barrel extension 54 where the peripheral edge is closely confined in order to prevent tampering after retraction.